



18th Battalion Association

Windsor and Detroit Branch

MEMORIES

When our Conventions are held at Windsor and we all parade to All Saints Anglican Church for our annual Memorial Service, it always brings back memories of our first Chaplain, Captain Arthur Carlisle, who was the Minister at All Saints before and after the First War. Many officers and men of the Battalion worshipped at All Saints during their lifetime. Some still do.

We had only attended a few Church Parades in London and Sandling before we became convinced that Captain Carlisle could preach a better sermon, and do so in a nicer voice, than any other Chaplain in our Division. It was a pleasure to listen to him. We will always remember the beautiful service he conducted on the S. S. "Grampion" while we were at sea.

On Christmas Day (1915) two of our Companies were in the front line while the other two were in reserve at Ridgewood and Vurstraat. We were at Ridgewood.

We were later told that on Christmas morning, Captain Carlisle had gone into the front line and held a Communion Service for the officers and men who wished to attend. It was quite a setting, for only a hundred yards of no man's land separated us from a powerful enemy. It so happened that on this day both sides were honouring an unofficial cease fire because the Germans, like ourselves, and the rest of the Christian world, were celebrating the birth of a child in a stable at Bethlehem many years before. We recall Major Baxter mentioning this unique service at one of our banquets.

Whoever selected the Rev. Arthur Carlisle of All Saints Anglican Church to be the first Chaplain of the Eighteenth Battalion made an excellent choice.

He was well-respected by the officers and men of the Battalion. We will always remember him as a dedicated spiritual advisor.